

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1508

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7946

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: CHIANG CHING LAUDED AS REVOLUTION LEADER

REF: A. HONG KONG 5899; B. HONG KONG 7888; C. HONG KONG 7467

SUMMARY: CHIANG CHING'S GROWING POLITICAL PROMINENCE GOES UP
ANOTHER NOTCH WITH MEDIA COMMEMORATION OF A SPEECH BY HER TEN
YEARS AGO LAUNCHING THE REVOLUTION IN OPERA. END SUMMARY

1. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE MONTHS (REF A), CHIANG CHING
IS IN THE LIMELIGHT OF MEDIA ATTENTION IN CHINA AND THE LATEST
ACCOLADE EXCEEDS ANYTHING WE HAVE SEEN SINCE HER HEYDAY IN THE
CULTURAL REVOLUTION. A RED FLAG (NO. 7) ARTICLE COMMEMORATING
THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER SPEECH LAUNCHING THE REVOLUTION
IN OPERA IS BEING WIDELY DISSEMINATED IN REGIME MEDIA AND MAKES
THE UNABSHED CLAIM THAT THIS "REVOLUTION IN PEKING OPERA
OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS IN THE FIRST GREAT ATTACK IN THE
SOCIALIST REVOLUTION ON ALL FRONTS IN THE REALM OF SUPER-
STRUCTURE."

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2. THE ARTICLE IS ATTRIBUTED TO CHU LAN, A COMMENTATOR ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS WHO SPRANG UP EARLY IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT AS A MAJOR VOICE PUSHING THE LEFTIST LINE AND CHIANG CHING PERSONALLY. IN THE ARTICLE CHU LAN LAUDS THE GREAT CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THE REVOLUTION IN OPEAR AND DECLARES THAT THIS IS NO ACCIDENT. MAO HAS "PERSONALLY INITIATED AND LED ALL IMPORTANT STRUGGLES" IN CLUTURE, BUT IT WAS UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP THAT CHINAG CHING CARRIED OUT THE REVOLUTION.

3. CHU LAN WRITES; "AT THE JULY 1964 FORUM OF PEKING OPERA AND MODERN DRAMAS, COMRADE CHIANG CHING DELIVERED A SPEECH ON THE REVOLUTION IN PEKING OPERA. THIS IMPORTANT SPEECH WAS FILLED WITH THE MARXIST SPIRIT OF GOING AGAINST THE TIDE, AND WAS A DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST THE REVISIONIST LINE... IT HAS ENCOURAGED THE REVOLUTIONARY LITERATURE AND ART FIGHTERS TO MARCH FORWARD VICTORIOUSLY FOR THE BATTLE....."

4. CHU LAN AT LENGTH DEFENDS CHIANG CHING'S OPERAS-- "NEW BORN THINGS ARE INVINCIBLE". HE TEARS INTO THE OPERAS' DETRACTORS AND TAUNTS THEM IN ONE OF THE MOST SPIRITED ATTACKS WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT RED FLAG ISSUES. THE STYLE, WITH ITS CHALLENGING QUESTIONS DIRECTED AT THE OPPOSITION, SOMEWHAT RECALLS YAO WEN-YUAN'S ESSAYS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

5. COMMENT. WE DO NOT KNOW OF A COMPARABLE INSTANCE WHEN THE ANNIVERSARY OF A PRONOUNCEMENT BY ANYONE OTHER THAN MAO HAS BEEN MARKED IN THIS WAY. WITH HER NAME CURRENTLY SO PROMINENT IN POSTERS AND LINKED WITH GUIDING INSTRUCTIONS EMANATING FROM THE CENTER ON THE DIRECTION OF THE POLICIAL MOVEMENT (REF B), CHIANG CHING IS INCREASINGLY ONE TO WATCH IN THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER AND THE SUCCESSION. IN OUR MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT WE COMMENTED THAT SHE HAD YET TO COME OUT INTO THE OPEN (HONG KONG 7467). SHE MAY NOW BE MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION.
CROSS

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